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INFO RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHND/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 MOSCOW 002734

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 11/04/2019
TAGS PREL, PGOV, ETRD, SENV, IR, AF, UK, RS
SUBJECT: RUSSIA: MOVING BEYOND BILATERAL ISSUES, MILIBAND
REOPENED DIALOGUE

Classified By: Political MC Susan M. Elliott for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

Summary

1. (C) During Foreign Secretary Miliband's November 1-2 visit, he put an end to the "period of standoff," but had little concrete to show for Ending the "Period of Standoff"

2. (C) On November 1-2, British Foreign Secretary David Miliband ended the five-year hiatus in bilateral visits. In his discussions with Russi

3. (C) While the visit succeeded in reestablishing constructive dialogue, President Medvedev and PM Putin had rebuffed British Embassy feelers

4. (C) During his two-day stay, Miliband dined with Lavrov on Sunday, followed on Monday by working meetings with Lavrov and First Deputy PM I

International Agenda

5. (C) START Follow-On: Lavrov was reportedly upbeat regarding START follow-on negotiations. According to British diplomats, Lavrov said the k

6. (C) Iran: Lavrov claimed Russia had no prior knowledge of the Qom facility and said the S300 deal was in a "holding pattern." Regarding the MOSCOW 00002734 002 OF 003

7. (C) Afghanistan: Lavrov conveyed that Russia wanted NATO to stay and to succeed. He made the usual pitch for formal CSTO consultations with

8. (C) MEPP: The joint statement urged "Israel to immediately end all settlement activities, including in East Jerusalem, and to allow access

9. (C) NATO/European Security: Miliband reaffirmed that Georgia and Ukraine remained on the NATO membership track and rejected Russia's conce

10. (C) WTO/Climate Change: Deputy PM Igor Shuvalov told Miliband that he had offered the U.S. a return to the bilateral negotiating track to

Bilateral Issues

11. (C) In addition to the joint statements, some progress was made on bilateral economic ties. Foremost was the November 5 visit of Finance M

Comment

12. (C) While Russia and the UK found some common ground during Miliband's visit, there was a lingering hesitancy on the Russian side, demonstr MOSCOW 00002734 003 OF 003
Miliband was in Moscow to demonstrate that he could talk to "even the most difficult of partners," thereby burnishing his credentials for a fut